

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
December 1, 2009
5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA) Board of Visitors met in the Boardroom on the first floor at 200 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chair
 Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice-Chair
 Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary
 Mr. Luther Lowe
 Mr. Mickey Cox
 Ms. Karen Garcia

Members Absent

Ms. MaryJane Rebick

Ex-Officio Members Present

Jim Purcell, Ph.D., Director and
 Designee, Arkansas Dept. of Higher Education
 Blake A. Perry, Ph.D., designee for John
 Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science
 and Technology Authority
 Ms. Annie Xu, President, Student
 Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Ms. Amanda Peebles, designee for Tom
 Kimbrell, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas
 Department of Education
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms.
 Cathie Matthews, Director, Department
 of Arkansas Heritage
 Ms. Cheryl Rawls, President, ASMSA
 Parents' Association

Administrative Members Present

Janet Hugo, Ph.D., Director
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs
 Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance and Administration
 Ms. Susan Lancaster, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mrs. Dardenne to approve the minutes of September 15, 2009 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reviewed her report with the Board.

Dr. Hugo reported that \$6 million stimulus money for the construction of the new resident life building was approved contingent upon the City of Hot Springs making a more substantive commitment to the resolution that they passed to raze the current residential life building. The University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees wants a more specific timeline to demolish the building. Dr. Hugo reported that the City is in discussions with a company to salvage the materials and also one that does asbestos abatement. Dr. Hugo stated that it was on the City's agenda to be discussed and stated that she was going to attend the meeting that evening to see if it would be tabled.

Dr. Hugo reported that the legislators were on campus November 9th to tour the school and stated that it was a very successful and eye-opening meeting to the legislators. Dr. Hugo reported that there has been a huge turnaround from little support to great support from the legislators after the tour.

Mr. Cox stated that Dr. Hugo, the staff and the students were brilliant in the preparations and presentations to the legislators. Mr. Cox reported that the students made such a great impression visiting with the legislators, and after the meeting, that the student-guided tours and the presentations made by the staff had a huge impact on them.

Mr. Gordy stated that there were probably few board members that thought that the building of a new residence facility could be accomplished. He said that it has been done as a result of Dr. Hugo's tenacity and continued commitment and it takes a leader to accomplish this goal and she should be commended on her efforts.

Mr. Gordy stated that when he became a member of the Board, the opinion of and the relationship with various departments of the Department of Education was not good. Mr. Gordy stated that there were contentious relationships between the previous director of ASMSA and the various agencies. He stated that the institution has come light years forward with the direction of Dr. Hugo. Mrs. Dardenne commented that the atmosphere of the meetings have been much friendlier and that is attributable to Dr. Hugo's leadership.

2. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Ms. Abernathy reviewed her report with the Board. She stated that she is concerned regarding the budget cuts and where the school will be financially for the next fiscal year. Ms. Abernathy stated that there are no plans for reducing personnel at this time but next year will be an extremely lean year.

A motion was made by Dr. Purcell and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board. Mr. Currier stated that discipline has been calm this semester. This year, the students will be able to view the Christmas lights at

Garvan Woodland Gardens for no charge. Mr. Currier stated that there has been a reduction of flu cases that have been reported and there are posters and flyers posted throughout the campus reminding everyone of flu hygiene. Mr. Currier reported that the Maintenance Department has contributed their labor on working on the locker rooms.

4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols was absent from the meeting.

In reviewing the report, Mrs. Dardenne had a question regarding the Intruder Drill that had taken place on November 16th that revealed some areas of concern. Dr. Hugo stated that announcements are made through the speakers and phone system and some “dead” spots were discovered where people cannot hear the announcement. Dr. Hugo stated that it will be corrected.

5. Office of Outreach – Chris Robbins

Chris Robbins was absent from the meeting. Dr. Hugo stated that Mr. Robbins is on the road trying to find some new sources of business.

The Office of Outreach has received two USDA Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants totaling \$1.5 million. Dr. Hugo stated that she is concerned about the potential loss of foreign language students next year. Dr. Hugo stated that the lottery scholarships are tied to the Smartcore curriculum that does not require two years of a foreign language requirement. Dr. Hugo stated that she does not know what the impact will be next year.

Dr. Purcell stated that the Smartcore Committee sent a letter to the Board of Education asking to include foreign language to the curriculum. Dr. Purcell suggested that anyone who is on a committee can send a letter to the Board of Education asking for a resolution to add a foreign language to the Smartcore curriculum.

Dr. Hugo stated that two years of a foreign language will continue to be a requirement at ASMSA.

6. Institutional Advancement – Susan Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster reviewed her report with the Board. Ms. Lancaster stated that the school has recently received a great deal of favorable publicity in the newspaper. *The Sentinel Record* has done a series of articles on the school, faculty and students. Also, Ms. Lancaster reported that there has been a flight of state-wide television commercials that ran from September 7th to September 28th and at the same time the commercials were being run, visits to the website increased by thirty percent.

Ms. Lancaster reported that there is a new group of supporters in Hot Springs called the ASMSA Ambassadors. This group is comprised of approximately 40-50 local residents who are involved with and support the school and they want to ensure that the school remains in Hot Springs. Ms. Lancaster reported that Dr. Hugo has hosted a series of events and has given tours to groups who are interested in the school. Ms. Lancaster stated that the Ambassadors will be having a brunch on December 13th and a large fundraiser (gala) is planned on March 14, 2010 at the Arlington Hotel. Ms. Lancaster also said that a golf fundraiser tournament is planned for April 9th at the Hot Springs Country Club.

7. Parent's Association – Mrs. Cheryl Rawls

Mrs. Rawls was absent from the meeting.

8. Student Government Association – Ms. Annie Xu

Ms. Xu reviewed her report with the Board. Ms. Xu reported that there was a Masquerade Ball on October 31st and a Reward or Review Day (R²) Day is scheduled for December 7th. An R² Day is a day that a student who has had an A or B in a class does not have to attend those classes. Also, if a student has a grade of C or below, the student must go to tutoring.

Ms. Xu reported that the Student Government Association sold bracelets for \$1 each to raise funds for the Susan B. Coleman Breast Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Gordy thanked Dr. Purcell for personally attending the Board meetings. He stated that it is important to the school and the Board for Dr. Purcell to personally take an interest in the institution and thanked him for his support.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Branch stated that the Nominating Committee had met and proposed that Mrs. Dardenne move from Vice Chair to Chair; Luther Lowe be Vice Chair; and Ms. Branch continue as Secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Dr. Purcell to accept the nominations made by the Nominating Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

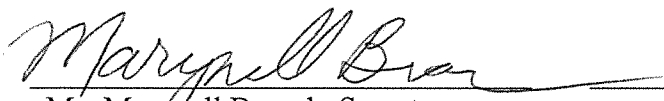
VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved as written _____ Approved as amended _____


Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary

5/4/10
(Date)